

here and share the work that is being done by the people on the ground fighting every day to make a difference in the lives of the students in their communities.

The Alliance brings together educators, school administrators, private business, and the local Chamber of Commerce, a cohesive group of diverse organizations, to make real progress toward improving the workforce pipeline in Berks County. Their goal is to have 18 school districts in Berks County adopt their framework and eventually make it a statewide initiative.

This initiative is being led by Dr. Jill Hackman, the executive director of the Berks County Intermediate Unit, and the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance. Thanks to their tireless efforts, and the efforts of many others involved, students will be exposed to new learning opportunities that can open the door to family sustaining careers.

I am very proud of the work being done in my district, and I look forward to seeing their initiative change the lives of some of the 70,000 K–12 students in Berks County.

THE TAX CUT IS A DEBACLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand the vote tally for the “Tax No Jobs” bill. It is interesting, when you are asked about the tax bill, they put the word “jobs.”

This was a very close vote, and 12 Republicans understood this was the worst vote, worst bill in the history of the United States; and the reason is, of course, because tens of millions of middle class households and those who need a tax break will not get it. \$1.7 trillion in debt.

It eliminates tax benefits that directly impact the middle class, it results in 13 million fewer Americans with health insurance, it adds over \$2 trillion in deficit spending, and it triggers PAYGO’s automatic spending cuts to mandatory programs.

So let me tell you, my voice is a little rough, but my heart is strong. Social Security to the American people, it is going to be cut. Medicare, it is going to be cut. The Medicaid, for those in nursing homes like my friend who I visited over the weekend, will be cut.

And you know what? There will be no answer in jobs of corporations who got low tax rates, lower than you.

This is a debacle so bad that it has to come back and we have to vote again for it.

My voice is a little rough, but I am going out there to tell the American people that this is the worst calamity since we collapsed under the past Republican administration. Vote “no” every time you see this bill because it is “no” for the American people.

□ 1715

IN MEMORY OF AGNES DOSTER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mrs. Agnes Doster, who passed away on Monday, December 4, at the age of 79.

Originally from Forsyth, Georgia, Mrs. Doster worked for 40 years in the Secretary of the Senate’s office in the Georgia State Capitol. She served in a number of different capacities there with dedication since 1968, always making the Georgia State Capitol run more efficiently, while promoting good government.

Outside of her time working as a civil servant, Mrs. Doster was very active in the First Baptist Church of Snellville for over 45 years. There, she sang in the choir, played hand bells, directed weddings, and taught the 2-year-old Sunday school class.

She is survived by family all over the State of Georgia, including her husband, sister, children, grandchildren, and 30 nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Doster’s bright spirit will surely be missed by everyone around the Georgia State Capitol.

WHAT A DISASTER

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, what a disaster. The American people wanted a Tax Code that works for them. Instead, my esteemed colleagues just passed a tax plan that only works for crony capitalists and oligarchs.

The GOP tax plan is scamming hardworking American families in order to line the pockets of millionaire real estate developers and people who paint their toilet fixtures in their private jets gold.

Mr. Speaker, hardworking American taxpayers want jobs, investments in our highways and railroads, fully funded children’s healthcare, state-of-the-art schools, and well-paid teachers.

Oligarchs who own gilded skyscrapers, gold-leafed golf courses, and real estate passthroughs want to drown in the excesses of wealth.

The American people wrote their Representatives. They called us. They marched in the Halls of the Capitol for a democratic Tax Code. Instead, they got a scam that takes away money from schools, police officers, fire departments, and families. But I guess money talks.

THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1 IS THE FIRST STEP

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, the passage of today’s bill is the first step to providing desperately needed once-in-a-generation relief from the failed status quo, especially in New York State.

Under this bill, the typical American family making \$73,000 a year will see a tax cut of \$2,059, and low- and middle-income New Yorkers can finally see an immediate raise in their January and February paychecks.

As a single working mom and a person who cared for my elderly and aging parents, I and my New York colleagues fought an uphill battle to include provisions facing elimination that are vital to seniors, single parents, struggling families, and overburdened job creators, many of whom have left New York State in vast numbers.

Despite the fact that these provisions faced the very real threat of elimination, our efforts were successful in securing the historic tax credit for a State like New York, with many of our Nation’s most historic and most important national landmarks, expanding the SALT deduction—the State and local tax deduction—childcare and dependent care credits, and continuing the deductibility of medical expenses, to assist our most vulnerable seniors in defraying high medical costs.

In New York’s 22nd District, 99 percent of itemizers deduct less than \$10,000 in property tax, the cap which represents the new deduction.

Due to Albany’s mismanagement, all the counties I represent are in the top 36 highest property tax rates compared with home value nationwide. This bill will provide relief on the Federal level, while, finally, finally, incentivizing Albany to respect taxpayers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana). The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED TAX REFORM

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the American people need and want real tax reform, but rather than passing a strong, inclusive bipartisan bill focused on helping hardworking middle class families, today Republicans passed a bill filled with massive corporate giveaways and loopholes for the ultrawealthy.

For example, the top 1 percent in our country will receive over 82 percent of the entire tax benefit in the bill they passed today.

As long as Congress continues to pass legislation for partisan political reasons that seriously serve special corporate interests instead of the families that are struggling just to get by every day, where lobbyists have more input in the writing of this legislation than many Members of Congress, the American people lose.